



NO PEACE IN SIGHT — A soldier loyal to renegade Gen. Michel Aoun prepares to jump from an armored personnel carrier during a patrol in the Dbaye area of Christian East Beirut Thursday, Feb. 8, as rival Christian groups resupplied with weapons and ammunition, police said. Aoun's troops wrested the area away from Christian troops of the Lebanese Forces militia during 10 days of fighting that have left 373 dead.

AP/Wide World Photos

Protesters urge cardinal to censure N.Y. governor

NEW YORK (CNS) — About 100 demonstrators prayed the rosary in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral on Ash Wednesday Feb. 28 and asked Cardinal John J. O'Connor to excommunicate Gov. Mario Cuomo for his position on abortion.

Paul Morrissey, the main organizer of the protest, said the demonstrators made the plea in a signed letter addressed to Cardinal O'Connor, who heads the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

Cuomo has said many times that while he personally opposes abortion, he — as a public official — must enforce laws permitting abortion.

Morrissey said the letter also was being mailed to individual bishops.

Monsignor John Woolsley, director of the archdiocesan Office of Christian and Family Development, was aware of the Feb. 28 demonstration, said Mary Dempsey, a spokeswoman for the archdiocese, March 1.

Excommunication of the governor "is not the position of the archdiocese at this time," she quoted Monsignor Woolsley as saying.

The protest was sponsored by a coalition of concerned Catholics, made up of about half dozen different groups, including

Morrissey's Morality Action Committee.

He said the group was planning activities through Good Friday, when it wants to have prayer vigils sponsored by pro-lifers outside cathedrals across the country to pray for the intentions of bishops.

"We respectfully requested through the power of prayer — we were reciting the rosary — that Cardinal O'Connor ... and all the bishops of America begin proceedings to excommunicate Catholic public officials who are openly and persistently supporting abortion through their actions and sometimes inactions," Morrissey told Catholic News Service.

He noted that in 1962, Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel of New Orleans excommunicated, "and rightly so," political leader Leander H. Perez Sr. and two other Catholic civic leaders who were segregationists for opposing the archbishop's integration of Catholic schools, he said.

"The precedent has been set for excommunication on much lesser offenses than abortion," Morrissey said.

He said that Cuomo has the power of line-item veto and could have "with one stroke of the pen" prevented 50,000 abortions on poor women per year by vetoing allocations for the procedure.

Education institute slated

ROCHESTER — The University of Rochester's Graduate School of Education and Human Development is hosting an Institute on Catholic Education from July 9-12.

The institute will feature several speakers, including Dr. Elinor Ford, president and publisher of William H. Sadlier, Inc., and a leading exponent of Catholic education; Dr. Herbert L. Foster, an expert in urban education and author of *Ribbin', Jivin' and Playin' the Dozens: The Persistent Dilemma in our Schools*; and Father William J. O'Malley, S.J., a theology and English teacher at Fordham Preparatory School in the Bronx.

The deadline to register for the institute is May 7. Call Sister Edwardine Weaver, 716/275-3936, for information.

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